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MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

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VOL. 51 ISSUE 44

Marine amputee rejoins battalion; returns to combat after near death experience

SGT. RAY LEWIS

2ND BATTALION, 7TH MARINES

CAMP BARBER, Helmand Province, Afghanistan – There was blood in the water. It was a grim addition to the Iraqi sewage canal usually littered with dead sheep and festering fish.

That's where the Marines of Company E, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, found their comrade after the attack.

Just seconds before, Cpl. Garrett S. Jones was patrolling the streets of Iraq with his team when he was suddenly hurled 15 feet into the air by an enemy booby trap.

"It was just a big dust cloud," said Cpl. Robert C. Pofahl, who stood 10 feet in front of Jones when the bomb detonated. "I ran toward him, and I fell in the canal. The mud was almost up to my knees. It was probably the worst smell you could smell. That's when I saw the blood in the water."

When Pofahl saw Jones lying there, he feared his friend's life was cut short. Barely alive, Jones' life was about to be changed forever.

The next thing Jones knew, he was on board a helicopter flight headed for the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany. He was strapped into a gurney with a military chaplain hovering over him.

"The chaplain asked me if I wanted to pray," said Jones, a 23-year-old Newberg, Ore., native. "We prayed. Then the doctor told

me my left leg would be amputated above the knee."

Shortly after, Jones was in surgery. He awoke a couple days later, but said he doesn't recall much after the operation but a phone conversation with his relatives.

"I just remember talking to my family," he said. "I remember saying, 'I hear they make really good prosthetics.'"

Upon leaving the hospital in Germany, Jones was once again strapped into a gurney and flown to the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., where his wounds were cleansed and torn flesh was removed from his body.

Military medical officials then transferred Jones to Naval Medical Center San Diego for further treatment. As a result of being restricted to a hospital bed, Jones wound up losing a lot of weight.

"I went from about 160 to 120 lbs.," Jones said. "I was in the bed almost all the time. The only time I got up was to do stretching and go to the bathroom. If I wasn't in my bed, I was in a wheelchair."

During his recovery, Jones had a total of 17 surgeries to clean the infected area in his left leg. He was treated for third-degree burns and shrapnel that peppered his left shoulder and both legs.

On Aug. 20, 2007, Jones was released from NMCS – just in time to see his fellow Marines of Echo Company return home

See AMPUTEE, A11



SGT. RAY LEWIS

Cpl. Garrett S. Jones, an amputee who was injured in 2007 by an insurgent's bomb during his unit's deployment to Iraq, is proud to be back serving with the Marines of 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, which are currently serving in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Jones is the first Marine with an above-the-knee amputation to deploy to Afghanistan.



4 VMU-1 receives award



5 Flood of homecomings at Combat Center



6 Children celebrate the season at Fall Fest



9 Wives spend the day in combat boots

CG offers open forum to Combat Center families Monday



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

The Krueger family is only one of the thousands who live and work aboard the Combat Center who can address quality of life issues at the commanding general's open forum at Sunset Cinema Nov. 3.

CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Base personnel will have an opportunity to address quality of life issues aboard the installation during the Combat Center commanding general's open forum at Sunset

Cinema Monday at 6:30 p.m.

The open forum will be available to all single and married military Combat Center personnel living on and off base.

"This is their opportunity to

See FORUM, A4

Somebody Loves You brings new meaning to 'God, Country, Corps'

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Somebody Loves You crusade rocked out for a crowd of more than 13,000 people during a free, public concert Saturday from 4 to 8 p.m. at the Combat Center's Victory Field, the first time ever on a military installation, showing their support for the troops and spreading Christ's message.

Four members of Riders 4 Christ, a freestyle motocross group, put on a stunt show, followed by musical performances from Christian heavy metal group Disciple and country singer

See SOMEBODY, A8



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

Jimmie McGuire, a Riders 4 Christ freestyle motocross biker, performs a midair superman stunt on his dirt bike at the Somebody Loves You tour Saturday at Victory Field.

This Day in Marine Corps History

-Oct. 31, 1955-

Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller, who earned five Navy Crosses, retired as a lieutenant general.

Proclamation

Red Ribbon Week

WHEREAS, The National Red Ribbon Campaign will be celebrated on Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms during October 27th through 31st of 2008; and

WHEREAS, visible, unified education efforts by Military Community members will be launched to support the elimination of the demand for drugs on Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center and its surrounding communities; and

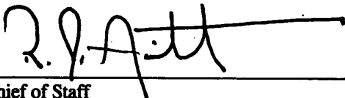
WHEREAS, The Drug Demand Reduction Program, with the support of the Marine Corps Community Services Directorate, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center is sponsoring the National Red Ribbon Campaign offering the Military Community the opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to drug-free lifestyles, namely, no use of illegal drugs, no illegal use of legal drugs; and

WHEREAS, President and Mrs. Bush are the National Honorary Chairpersons of the Red Ribbon Campaign, and provide national and state focus on a drug-free America; and

WHEREAS, Marines, Sailors, Dependents, and Civilians are encouraged to demonstrate their commitment to a healthy, drug-free lifestyle by displaying Red Ribbons during this week-long campaign; and

WHEREAS, The Military Community of Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center further commits its resources to ensure the success of the Red Ribbon Campaign.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That I, Colonel R. J. Abblitt, Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, do hereby proclaim October 27th throughout the 31st of 2008 as RED RIBBON WEEK, and encourage our Military Community to participate in drug prevention education activities, making a visible statement that we are strongly committed to a drug-free community, and proclaim, "United Against Drugs".


Chief of Staff

National Red Ribbon Campaign

DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION COORDINATOR

SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNSELING CENTER

The National Red Ribbon Campaign kicked off its 21st anniversary this week from Monday through today.

Red Ribbon Week is the oldest and largest drug prevention program in the nation, reaching millions of Americans every year during the last week of October. By wearing red ribbons and participating in community anti-drug events, individuals pledge to live a drug-free life and pay tribute to DEA Special Agent Enrique Camarena.

Special Agent Camarena was an 11-year veteran of the DEA assigned to the Guadalajara, Mexico, office when he was investigating the country's biggest drug traffickers. On Feb. 7, 1985, Special Agent Camarena, a former Marine, was kidnapped, tortured and murdered by Mexican drug traffickers. He was 37 years old and was survived by his wife and their three children. His tragic death opened the eyes of many Americans to the dangers of drugs and the international scope of the drug trade.

During the Reagan Administration the "Camarena Club" was formed and hundreds of club members pledged to lead drug-free lives to honor the sacrifice made by Enrique Camarena. The pledges were then delivered to First Lady Nancy Reagan at a national conference of parents combating youth drug use. Several state parent organizations then called on community groups to wear red ribbons during the last week of October as a symbol of their drug-free commitment. The first Red Ribbon Week celebrations were held in La Mirada and Norwalk, Calif. In 1988, the National Family Partnership coordinated the first National Red Ribbon Week with President and Mrs. Reagan serving as honorary chairpersons.

The National Family Partnership estimates that more than 80 million people participate in Red Ribbon events each year. The campaign is a unified way for communities to take a stand against drugs and show intolerance for illicit drug use and the consequences to all Americans.

Be a part of Red Ribbon Week showing your support against drugs at the Combat Center. Red Ribbons are available through the Unit Substance Abuse Officer and the Drug Demand Reduction Coordinator located in Bldg. 1437. Visit the display table in the Main Exchange today from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and wear your Red Ribbon.

BAD CHECK

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14					15					16			
17					18					19			
				20				21		22			
23	24	25	26						27				
28						29	30	31					
32					33					34	35	36	
37					38					39			
40				41					42				
		43	44					45					
46	47						48						
49					50		51						
52				53		54				55	56	57	58
59				60					61				
62				63					64				

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ACROSS

- 1. Carpentry or auto mechanics
- 6. New England catch
- 11. Lobster __ Diavolo
- 14. Skater-turned-actress Sonja
- 15. Hosiery shade
- 16. On the __ (fleeing)
- 17. Crackers sometimes tossed into soup
- 19. __-Wan Kenobi
- 20. Gad about
- 21. Pinhead
- 23. Old Eastwood Western
- 27. Like an oboe's sound
- 28. Pieces of spam
- 29. Pop up
- 32. Easy mark
- 33. Kennel club classification
- 34. Teacher's fave
- 37. Change machine fill
- 38. Diner basketful
- 39. __ Scotia lox
- 40. Roofer's gunk

DOWN

- 41. __ fatty acids
- 42. Piece of grounds keeping gear
- 43. Rowan, to Martin
- 45. Open House attendee
- 46. Fictional Lorna
- 48. Kids' racers
- 49. On a train
- 51. Lang of Smallville
- 52. Voice man Blanc
- 53. Candice Bergen sitcom
- 59. Work with
- 60. Alpha's opposite
- 61. Bull dogger's venue
- 62. __ capita
- 63. Exorcist's target
- 64. Wrapped up

DOWN

- 1. HBO competitor
- 2. "O'er the ramparts ..." writer
- 3. Helpful connections
- 4. __ into (berated)
- 5. In a wary way
- 6. Carlton in Cooperstown
- 7. Elizabeth player Blanchett
- 8. Dirt road feature
- 9. Ready for business
- 10. Yearned for
- 11. Hippie slogan
- 12. Like a mad dog
- 13. Friendliness
- 18. Retinal cells
- 22. Herbal brew
- 23. Transplant, in away
- 24. Appliance name
- 25. Office hangout
- 26. Serenade the villain
- 29. "You __ kidding!"
- 30. Carrots' partner
- 31. __ XING (road sign)

- 33. Victoria's Secret offerings
- 35. Meet component
- 36. Bite-sized pies
- 38. Hood buddy
- 39. Myrna's "The Thin Man" role
- 41. Container in a lunch box
- 42. Like much of Poe's work
- 44. Out __ limb
- 45. Yankee Doodle's mount
- 46. Create a blockage in
- 47. Beyond plump
- 48. "Playboy" cartoonist __ Wilson
- 50. Russian legislative assembly
- 51. Michelle Wie's org
- 54. On Soc. Sec.
- 55. Harry Potter pal __ Weasley
- 56. Uneven?
- 57. Like Willie Winkie
- 58. Auction assent

[Solutions on A9]

Centerspeak

What is the most original Halloween costume you've ever worn?

Opinions expressed in Centerspeak are not necessarily those of the OBSERVATION POST, the Marine Corps or Department of Defense.



PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS
STEVE CRAWFORD
2ND SUPPLY BATTALION, 2ND MARINE LOGISTICS GROUP

"I was 'Nacho Libre' because it fit my body type."



CPL. ANDY JIMENEZ
COMPANY A, HEADQUARTERS BATTALION

"I wore a really, really hairy dog costume."



PFC. JOHN DESHER
COMPANY B, HEADQUARTERS BATTALION

"I was Quailman because it was so easy to make."

Employee Spotlight



Name: Danielle Ulrich
Hometown: Camarillo, Calif.
Organization: Marine Palms Exchange
Job Title: Sales Associate
Job Duties: Greeting customers, helping customers find things, and ringing up customers.
What Do You Like Best About Your Job: I like the people that I work with and getting to know the customers who come in regularly.
Hobbies: Rebuilding an engine for a 1973 International Travelall

Significant Achievements: Now 13 weeks pregnant with the couple's first child.
Military Service: None, wife of Cpl. Matthew Ulrich, an artilleryman with Battery I, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment

OBSERVATION POST

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<p>FRI. 10/31</p> <p>Halloween Spooktacular Time: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Where: Hi-Desert Nature Museum, 57090 29 Palms Hwy., Yucca Valley For more info call 369-7212 or visit http://www.hidesertnaturemuseum.org</p>	<p>FRI. 10/31</p> <p>Grim Rabbit Halloween Time: 9 p.m. Where: Pappy & Harriet's 53688 Pioneertown Rd. Pioneertown For more info call 365-5956 or visit http://www.pappyandharriets.com</p>	<p>FRI. 10/31</p> <p>Fearie Tales Haunt Time: 6 to 10 p.m. Where: Theatre 29 73637 Sullivan Rd. 29 Palms For more info call 361-4151 or visit http://www.theatre29.com</p>	<p>FRI. 10/31</p> <p>Halloween at Westfield Time: 4 p.m. Where: Westfield Mall 72-480 Highway 111 Palm Desert For more info call 568-0248 or visit http://www.westfield.com/palm-desert</p>	<p>SAT. 11/1</p> <p>Blak Tie Soiree musical gala Time: 7 p.m. Where: Blak Box Theatre 61231 29 Palms Hwy. Joshua Tree For more info call 366-3777 or visit http://www.hidesertplayhouse.com</p>
<p>SAT. 11/1</p> <p>Groves: On The Verge Time: 8 p.m. Where: Groves Cabin Theatre 8768 Desert Willow Trl. Morongo Valley For more info call 365-4523</p>	<p>SAT. 11/1</p> <p>Starship classic rock concert Time: 8 p.m. Where: Spotlight 29 Casino 46-200 Harrison Pl., Coachella For more info call (800) 585-3737 or visit http://www.spotlight29.com</p>	<p>SAT. 11/1</p> <p>Weed Show 29 Palms Time: All day event Where: Old Schoolhouse Museum 6760 National Park Dr. 29 Palms For more info call 367-2366</p>	<p>SUN. 11/2</p> <p>Art Reception: 29P Art Gallery Time: 12 p.m. Where: 29 Palms Art Gallery 74055 Cottonwood Dr. 29 Palms For more info call 367-7819 or visit http://www.29palmsartgallery.com</p>	<p>SUN. 11/2</p> <p>Billy Ray Cyrus concert Time: 7 p.m. Where: Morongo Casino Resort 49500 Seminole Dr., Cabazon For more info call (800) 252-4499 or visit http://www.morongocasinoresort.com</p>

A bag full of safety tips to help prevent a haunting Halloween

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

With witches, goblins and superheroes descending on neighborhoods on and off-base, the Combat Center Provost Marshal's Office has been taking extra precautions to ensure every child and parent has a safe and enjoyable Halloween.

Although PMO will be out on this haunting night, parents should also take safety measures to ensure their child comes back safe with a bag full of candy to share.

According to <http://www.halloween-safety.com>, Halloween safety can be broken down into four different sections every child and parent should know and adhere to.

The first aspect of safety is choosing a costume. Costumes should not hinder movement at all, and masks should not hinder the wearer's vision.

"When wearing a mask, children should have full peripheral vision," said Cpl. Diane

Hammers, a security inspector with PMO. "Children should also have a full range of motion, and the costumes shouldn't drag at their feet - to prevent them from tripping or catching on fire."

During Halloween, many porches will be decorated with carved jack-o-lanterns with candles inside. Although home owners should ensure these flaming pumpkins are placed out of walking paths, children should also be wary to keep their costumes from catching fire.

The second aspect of safety is before nightfall on Halloween; parents should plan and review their children's route, and ensure each child has a flashlight and a light-up watch.

"These children are excited so they are prone to forget common sense," said Staff Sgt. Anthony Fox, the physical security chief at PMO. "We want to make sure parents are reminding their children to be safe."

Although glow-strips will help motorists see children crossing a street, flashlights have

a brighter light and more uses, such as being used to defend someone if in danger.

Before a child goes out for the night of candy collecting, the parents should make them a hearty dinner to help prevent them from eating candy before an adult can

inspect it, said Hammers.

The third area of safety is during trick-or-treating. Although parents are strongly encouraged to go with their children, if children are going without an adult,

See SAFETY, A10

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5:00	5:25	5:30	5:40	5:45	6:00	6:10	7:00

15	MCAGCC-Palm Springs	Friday		
Palm Springs Airport	Indian Canyon & Andreas (Casino)	Indian Canyon & Tacheva (Hospital)	Stater Bros WalMart	MCAGCC
7:00	7:10	7:15	7:50	8:30

15	MCAGCC-Palm Springs	Saturday/Sunday*					
Base Post Exchange	Building 1664	Subway	29 Palms Community Center	29 Palms Staters	Joshua Tree Park Blvd.	Stater Bros WalMart	Palm Springs Airport
10:00	10:25	10:30	10:40	10:45	11:00	11:10	11:45
4:00	4:25	4:30	*4:40	*4:45	*5:00	*5:10	*5:45

15	MCAGCC-Palm Springs	Saturday/Sunday*		
Palm Springs Airport	Indian Canyon & Andreas (Casino)	Indian Canyon & Tacheva (Hospital)	Stater Bros WalMart	MCAGCC
12:00	12:10	12:15	12:50	1:35
*6:00	*6:10	*6:15	*6:50	*7:35

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Homecoming levy breaks, three units return from deployments

LANCE CPLS. NICHOLAS M. DUNN AND M. C. NERL

COMBAT CORRESPONDENTS

The past two weeks marked the arrival of multiple Combat Center units returning home from deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan.

Marine Wing Support Squadron 374 kicked off the flood of homecomings Oct. 22 when the first half of its Marines and sailors arrived at Victory Field to a throng of friends, family and fellow service members.

"They just did an outstanding job," said Gunnery Sgt. Kristian Mayes, the MWSS-374 family readiness officer. "For a unit to go over and come back without any casualties speaks for itself. It speaks for the type of leadership they have."

During their seven-month tour in Iraq, the squadron was responsible for supporting air missions, conducting airfield operations and maintenance, and running convoy operations in their vicinity, added the Tombstone, Ariz., native.

The Marines and sailors were just as excited to be home as their loved ones were to see them all come back safe.

"This feels great," said Sgt. Valo Gonzalez, an MWSS-374 weather forecaster. "I haven't felt this good in a very long time. I felt like I was missing

three parts of me the whole time I was gone."

Gonzalez was greeted at Victory Field by his wife, Jenny, his 9-year-old daughter Sienna, and his 4-year-old son Corylus.

"It almost doesn't feel like he's been gone for seven months, to be honest," said Jenny. "As soon as he comes home, he fits right back in perfectly – like a puzzle piece."

The second wave of MWSS-374 Marines and sailors returned to the Combat Center Saturday.

Battery M, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment also returned to the Combat Center Saturday at Del Valle Field.

During their deployment to Taqqadum and Fallujah, Iraq, Btry. M provided artillery support to Regimental Combat Team 1, said Gunnery Sgt. Thomas Prado, the battery gunnery sergeant. They also conducted convoy security operations throughout Al Anbar Province.

"Our busiest missions were providing security for explosive ordinance disposal," said the Pleasant Hill, Calif., native. "Those were the most frequent and dangerous."

"All the Marines knew what they were doing because of the extensive preparation we went through before the deployment," he added.

Pardo said other than minor



Friends, family and fellow "Rhinos" cheered and held up signs to welcome home the Marines and sailors of Marine Wing Support Squadron 374 from Iraq at Victory Field Oct. 22.

noncombat-related injuries, Btry. M had no Marines killed or wounded during their deployment.

Along with their fellow 3/11 Marines, friends and families of the returning service members were also present at Del Valle Field.

Miguel Sosa, father of Cpl. Gabriel Sosa, a diesel mechanic with 3/11's Btry. M, was one of many who waited for the return of their loved ones.

"We back up our son a lot – this is what he joined to do," said the Houston native. "We're 100 percent proud of what he's done for us. We did miss him while he was gone, but we are still very proud of him."

The return of the Marines and sailors of Company E, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, and their advanced party, culminated the nearly week-long streak of homecomings. They arrived at Victory Field early Tuesday morning, greeted by their loved ones and fellow 2/7 Marines who were wounded in Afghanistan, or made up the battalion's Remain-Behind Element.

The Marines and sailors of 2/7, along with the 24th Marine

Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) from Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., were among the first Marines to deploy to the Helmand Province of Afghanistan in April, as part of a maneuver to battle a resurgent Taliban and al Qaeda presence there.

"Our mission was to train Afghan National Police, which involved a lot of joint patrolling," said 1st Lt. Mike McNicoll, the Weapons Platoon commander of 2/7's Co. E. "We also conducted a lot of traditional counterinsurgency operations. McNicoll, a West Hills, Calif., native, was welcomed home by his wife and twin daughters. They are expecting a third daughter, who will be born in December.

"It's just nice to be home now and see my kids again," he said.

The main element of 2/7 will return to the Combat Center the coming weeks after their deployment to Afghanistan.

All the Marines and sailors who returned home will be taking time off to be with their families before they begin training for future operations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Cpl. Robert Riedel, a rifleman with Company E, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, kisses his 1-year-old son Thompson's head after his unit's arrival at Victory Field with the rest of Co. E and 2/7's advanced party Tuesday morning. The Fayetteville, Ark., native was greeted by Thompson and his wife, Lenora, a Huntsville, Ark., native.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Service members reunite with loved ones as Battery M, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, returns to the Combat Center Oct. 25. The battery recently returned from their support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, and following well-deserved time off, will get back to training.

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Fall Festival a blast for Combat Center families

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

More than 3,000 goblins, princesses, ghosts, pirates, scarecrows and other various unknown creatures and their families haunted the Children Youth and Teen programs' buildings during the annual



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Rachel Fenton, 8, waits patiently for her pony ride to begin during the Family Fall Festival at the Children Youth and Teen program buildings Oct. 24. The festival was also a way for parents to keep their children safe while they enjoyed the holiday.

Family Fall Festival Oct. 24.

As families arrived at the festival, children rushed to the pony ride, petting zoo and funnel cakes. Once inside the buildings, staff members dressed as Winnie the Pooh and princesses from Disney movies, kept order while passing out candy and directing them to games.

The festival was also a way for parents to keep their children safe while they enjoy the haunted holiday, said Yvonne Risper, the CYTP director.

"You always hear about the dangers that can occur on Halloween," said Risper, a St. Louis native. "Parents don't have to worry when they celebrate here because it is completely base-regulated."

With so many families attending, the CTYP was filled wall-to-wall with children and their families, which flooded into the parking lot. The outside lines continued to grow throughout the night, especially the line for the two pony rides, which grew so long it wrapped around the nearby cake walk.

"Our most popular event is the pony ride," said Mae Ford, the branch head of CYTP. "From the high demand last year, we added an extra one."

The event had staff members from all of CYTP buildings



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Katelyn Burrows, 4, rides a pony named Rusty during the Family Fall Festival at the Children Youth and Teen program buildings Oct. 24. The CTYP was filled wall-to-wall with children and their families, which flooded into the parking lot.

dressed up in familiar Halloween costumes, walking throughout the parking lot and passing out candy, glow-sticks and a variety of prizes.

"This is a great alternative for parents to let their children experience Halloween while they are in a safe environment," said Ford. "It also gives parents a chance to enjoy a family fun night, and the parents don't have to pay a penny."

To give parents and children a chance to sit and relax while replenishing their energy, hotdog

meals that included chips and a soda were passed out inside the Youth and Teen Oasis building. Parents could also get a family picture taken and made into a button inside the YATO building as well.

Inside the New Horizons building, children explored different rooms that held various games and art activities including bag and cap decorating, pumpkin toss, basketball and ping pong toss, a duck pond and fishing. Winners of the fishing game had the chance to walk away with a live goldfish.

"We come here every year because it gives my children a safe

environment to experience Halloween," said Jennifer Stevens, the wife of a retired master sergeant, and mother of two children. "This is a great alternative, and my children actually prefer coming here then regular trick-or-treating."

Stevens 6-year-old son, Nate, said he also enjoyed the festival, especially winning toys and candy throughout the rooms.

"My favorite game is the pumpkin bean bag toss," he said.

With candy and costumes in hand, the parents gathered their children and made their way back into the night, looking forward to next year's Family Fall Festival.



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LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Kieala Ehler, 2, decorates a small pumpkin during the Family Fall Festival at the Children Youth and Teen program buildings Oct. 24.

Wednesday Evening Ballroom Dances

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7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

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Nov. 5.....Joe Nutter & His Sophisticated Swing
Nov. 12.....Touch of Class
Nov. 19.....CD Night with Steve & Barb
Nov. 26.....No Dance - Happy Thanksgiving!

Admission Prices:
CD Night - \$5/Person • Fall 2008 - \$7/Person

Birth announcements



Nova Lee Wenger
 Daughter of Cpl. Josey Wenger and wife, Kelly Wenger.
 Born Sept. 30, weighing 6 pounds, 4 ounces and measuring 17.5 inches.

Jamey Don LaVerne Crusha
 Son of Cpl. Brandon Crusha and wife, Carolyn Crusha.
 Born Oct. 1, weighing 7 pounds, 8.6 ounces and measuring 20 inches.

Alexia Yvette Trejo
 Daughter of Lance Cpl. Julia Daniel and Michael Trejo.
 Born Oct. 1, weighing 8 pounds and measuring 21 inches.

Paige Nicole Kennon
 Daughter of Sgt. Endri Kennon and wife, Kallie Kennon.
 Born Oct. 2, weighing 7 pounds, 13 ounces and measuring 19.5 inches.

Alexander James Hopkins
 Son of Lance Cpl. Christopher Hopkins and wife, Heather Hopkins.
 Born Oct. 1, weighing 7 pounds, 14.6 ounces and measuring 21.5 inches.

Kylie Reyanne Sahlin
 Daughter of Cpl. Christine Anslow and Tyler Sahlin.
 Born Oct. 6, weighing 6 pounds, 10 ounces and measuring 20.5 inches.

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SOMEBODY, from A1

Darryl Worley.

Afterward, Raul Ries, a former Marine and pastor at the Cavalry Chapel in Diamond Bar, Calif., gave a rousing speech about his love for Jesus Christ and the importance of spreading the word of the gospel.

"What Somebody Loves You is

all about is just reaching out," said Michael Fallebella, a Somebody Loves You crusade director. "Today we want to show our love and support to the men and women who are serving our country."

Since 1993, Somebody Loves You has been traveling throughout the U.S. and the rest of the world to help spread Christ's word to both Christian and

non-Christian communities.

"We mainly try to reach out to the non-Christian communities," said Ries, who served in Vietnam with Company A, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment. "We also want to get to every military base we can, to reach out to the young guys and see what God can do for them."

The 61-year-old veteran and pastor added he found God in 1972 after returning from Vietnam and experienced a great deal of hardship in his personal life. Now he travels around and spreads the gospel, hoping to help young people the way God helped him.

"We're reaching out and praying for all the young people going over to Iraq and Afghanistan so they can come home safe and see their families, and I give God all

the glory for it," he said.

The Riders 4 Christ, all of whom are professional motocross riders, began their stunt show at 4:30 p.m., launching off a ramp and flipping through the air on their dirt bikes, causing roars of cheers and applause from the crowd.

In between stunt shows, several members of Riders 4 Christ shared their personal experiences with the audience about how they came to find Jesus and why they support the military.

Jimmie McGuire and Destin Candrell, two of the Riders 4 Christ, both spoke about how they came to accept Christ after going through troubled teenage years. McGuire also thanked the Marines and sailors for their service to their country.

"On behalf of the Riders 4 Christ, we want to thank the brave men and women of our military," he said. "We can do what we love to do and ride our bikes in a free country because of your sacrifice."

A second show at 5:20 p.m. wrapped up the Riders 4 Christ demonstration and kicked off the live music from the Christian heavy metal band Disciple, based in Knoxville, Tenn. The band's vocalist, Kevin Young, also told his story about why he loves Jesus and why he supports the military.

"My grandfather was killed in the invasion of Normandy and my mom had to grow up without a father," he said. "Because of his sacrifice, I appreciate every single person who joins the military and fights so we can be free to travel and preach the word of God."

Disciple has been playing together and traveling for more than 15 years using their unique lyrics to help spread God's message to people all over the world.

After Disciple got the crowd riled up with their head-banging portrayal of the Holy Book, Darryl Worley mellowed them back out with a few of his soft country hits.

To wrap it all up and tie it off with a bow, Ries got on stage and delivered a rousing sermon to the audience, sharing his own heartfelt tale about how he found the path to righteousness.

The Somebody Loves You tour will be traveling to South America next, making stops in Chile, Colombia and Peru before returning to the U.S. to perform in Las Vegas in August. They will continue to draw in both Christian and non-Christian crowds, and preach the word of God.

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<p>Church of Christ Sunday Bible Study 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am 1:30 pm Ladies' Bible Classes 11am Wed. Wed. Bible Study 5pm 7021 Airway, Yucca Valley • 365-9215</p>	<p>Yucca Valley Church of Religious Science Healing Lives & Building Dreams Reverend Ron Scott Sunday Celebration & Junior Church 10 AM 7434 Bannock Trail, Yucca Valley 365-2205 yvcrs.org</p>		<p>United Methodist Church of Twentynine Palms 6250 Mesquite Springs Road Phone: 367-7338 Sunday School: 8:30 a.m. - Worship: 9:30 a.m. (Child Care Provided) Pastor Beth Glass "open hearts, open minds, open doors"</p>	<p>St. Martin-In-The-Fields EPISCOPAL CHURCH Sunday School 11:30 am • Holy Eucharist 11:30 am Sunday Bible Study 10:30 am We're Here for Everyone Phone (760) 367-7133 72348 Larrea Road (2 blocks up from KFC), 29 Palms www.stmartinschurch29.org</p>
<p>St. Joseph of Arimathea Episcopal Church Where Seniors Really Matter Holy Eucharist 9:00 A.M. Onaga at Church St., Y.V. 365-7133</p>	<p>Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod) WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 AM WE PREACH CHRIST RISEN 59077 Yucca Trail, Yucca Valley CHURCH: 365-2548 Preschool & Daycare: 369-9590</p>	<p>Desert Hills Presbyterian Church 56750 Mountain View Trail Yucca Valley • 365-6331 Worship Service 10:00 A.M. Child Care, Bible Studies, Youth, Choir A Friendly and Loving Congregation!</p>	<p>First Baptist Church of 29 Palms Childcare Available Sunday Services Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Morning Worship 10:30 a.m. Evening Service 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Services Prayer Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Young Married Couples Ministry 6:30 p.m. www.fbc29.org 6414 Split Rock Ave., 29 Palms, CA 760-367-7561</p>	<p>FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH 365-4014 SUNDAY Bible School.....9:30am Worship.....10:45am WEDNESDAY Bible Study.....7pm</p>
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L.I.N.K.S. CAX puts wives in their husbands' boots

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Wives of Marines and sailors received the chance to learn more about what their husbands do on a day-to-day basis at the Lifestyle, Insight, Networking, Knowledge and Skills program's combined armed exercise at Felix Field Oct. 23.

The CAX brought more than 30 spouses together for various classes and interactive scenarios in order to give them a glimpse inside their husbands' jobs and what they could do as a spouse to help.

"It explained everything, which helps us understand why Marines do the things they do," said Chelsi Miller, wife to Lance Cpl. Timothy Miller, 1st Tank Battalion. "This also gives us a chance to meet different people while finding out there is more to do than just staying home and watching TV reruns all day."

The Combat Center Band and color guard opened the event as Amber Bilderain, a L.I.N.K.S. administrative assistant, explained why it was important to stand in respect during the national anthem and the Marines' Hymn.

The wives then learned about Marine Corps' customs and courtesies, rank structure, the chain of command and the wide variety of uniforms.

Volunteering Marines dressed in different issued uniforms, such as the dress blue alpha and the service charlie uniforms, to give the women an opportunity to ask questions regarding ribbons, medals and rifle badges.

Between classes, all the wives had the opportunity to explore in and out of an M1A1 Main Battle Tank and an M88A2 Hercules recovery vehicle.

The wives also had classes on moving while in the Marine Corps, money benefits and deductibles, how to remain safe while their husbands are away and tips on coping during a deployment.

"I now know more about the steps we go through during a deployment," said Jennifer Smith, who attended the event. "It was an insight to how we should act before they go, and what is going to be happening to us when they do leave."

Posters of a leave and earnings statement were displayed, and the women learned about what benefits their family is entitled to, and what deductibles should be pres-

ent. Every wife was urged to get a copy of their husbands LES, and ensure everything was correct.

"The information passed on in a LINKS session is designed to educate and enrich the lives of Marine and Navy spouses," said Margot Bass, an administrative assistant for L.I.N.K.S. "The CAX simply takes it one step further, allowing them to see, smell, taste and experience just a hint of what their husbands do on a daily basis."

As lunch time came closer, the wives were given flak jackets and helmets, loaded on the back of 7-ton trucks, and convoyed to the Expeditionary Airfield.

The spouses were divided into small groups and led on a tour of the EAF one group at a time, as Marines from Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 1 and VMU-3 explained the importance of the unmanned aerial system during a deployment, while showing the different planes they had present in the EAF hangar.

"My favorite part was being allowed in the hangar and seeing the unmanned planes," said Smith, a San Bernardino, Calif., native. "It was great to watch the Marines at work and see what they do on a daily basis."



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

A Marine from 1st Tank Battalion shows a spouse how to enter an M1A1 Main Battle Tank during the Lifestyle, Insight, Networking, Knowledge and Skills combined armed exercise at Felix Field Oct. 23.

The wives who were not touring the EAF were relaxing in the shade of the 7-tons, eating lunch, which included Meals Ready-to-Eat, fruit, cereal bars and a variety of beverages.

"I now understand why Marines try to avoid the MRE's," said Miller, a New Orleans native. "Although it was a good chance for us to understand what they are eating while deployed."

With the 7-tons' canvas sides lift-

ed up, the wives then toured the Combat Center's mainside area, as experienced wives volunteering during the CAX pointed out hotspots they should know about, such as the Village Center, the Education Center and the East Gym.

By the end of the evening, the wives wound down with a cake-cutting ceremony and left with a L.I.N.K.S. bag filled with information and a certificate for completing the day-long CAX.

Delta Company, 3rd AABn departs for Operation Iraqi Freedom

LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Marines and sailors of Delta Company, 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion, bid goodbye to their friends and loved ones early morning Tuesday from their company headquarters at the Combat Center.

The company is scheduled to head to Iraq for this deployment.

"They're headed overseas and still awaiting their assignments," said Gunnery Sgt. Frank J. Clark, a motor transportation chief with Delta Company's Headquarters and Service Platoon. "They know they are going to support Operation Iraqi Freedom,

but as of yet there is no set assignment."

Clark, who comes from Greenwood, Calif., added when the company arrives in country, they will not yet have a unit to be attached to.

"At first we'll have our own operational area," he explained. "And then whatever command we end up falling under, we'll be a part of their mission."

Clark said the company usually is deployed as provisional

infantry, to be augmented wherever they are needed at the time. They are also trained in many different aspects of conducting operations overseas.

The company is scheduled to return home next spring.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Marines with 4th platoon, Delta Company, 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion, arrive at their company headquarters and stage their gear before departing the Combat Center Tuesday morning. The company deployed to Iraq, and is scheduled to return next spring.

CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

Sunday

Roman Catholic Services Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel

Faith Formation/CCD-8 a.m.
Confessions+ - 8:45 a.m.
Rosary - 9 a.m.
Catholic Mass* - 9:30 a.m.
Children's Liturgy of the Word
9:30 a.m.
Confessions+ - 4:15 p.m.
Choir Practice - 4 p.m.
Rosary - 4:30 p.m.
Catholic Mass - 5 p.m.

Protestant Services Christ Chapel

Lay-Led Independent Baptist
Breakfast, West Wing - 8:30 a.m.
Non-Denominational Service
Worship - 9 a.m.
Children's Church - 9 a.m.
Sunday School - 10:15 a.m.
Youth Group 6 p.m.

Pastor-Led Lutheran Worship Worship-NHTP Chapel-11:15 a.m.

Lay-Led Gospel Service Worship - 11:30 a.m.

Legend

* Indicates Child Care Provided
+Appointments can be made for
Confessions by calling 830-6456/6482

Weekday Events

Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Mass Mon-Fri - 11:45 a.m. (except holidays)

Monday

Christ Chapel

Praise & Worship Rehearsal-4 p.m.
Immaculate Heart of Mary
Catholic Mass, Mon-Fri -
11:45 a.m. (except holidays)

Tuesday

Christ Chapel

Christian Women's Fellowship* -
9 a.m., (September - May)

Immaculate Heart of Mary

Children's RCIA - 4-5:30 p.m.
Catechist Meeting - 5-8 p.m.
(Second Tuesday each month)
Baptism Class - 6-7:30 p.m.
(First Tuesday each month)

C&E Barracks Building 1666 Bible Study - 6:30 p.m. Chaplain Hester 830-6187

Wednesday

Christ Chapel

Praise Band Rehearsal - 6 p.m.
Food/Fellowship - 6:30 p.m.
Non-Denomination Bible Study-
7 p.m.
Lay-Led Gospel Bible Study-7 p.m.

Immaculate Heart of Mary

Military Council of Catholic
Women* - 9:30 a.m. Sept. - May
Youth Teen - 6 p.m.
Knights of Columbus - 7 p.m.
(1st Wednesday each month)

Thursday

"Faith Lessons" Bible Study

Building 1651, at 12 p.m. with
Chaplains Moran and Hester. For
more info call 830-6187

Immaculate Heart of Mary

RCIA-6-7:30 p.m.
Resumes Sept. 11

Friday

Christ Chapel

Gospel Rehearsal - 5 p.m.

Immaculate Heart of Mary

Exposition/Adoration of the
Blessed Sacrament 12:15-4:30 p.m.
(First Friday each month)

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SAFETY, from A3

they should move together in large groups.

According to the Web site, Parents should also ensure their children are trick-or-treating in well-known areas, and visit houses that have their front porch light on.

Children should always walk on the sidewalk. If no sidewalk is

available, children should walk on the farthest edge of the street facing traffic.

Other than low-flying brooms, children should also check for motor vehicles before crossing the street, and should be reminded to cross the street only at corners. All masks that hinder eye-sight should also be removed while crossing streets and driveways.

Trick-or-treaters should also avoid entering a stranger's house or vehicle to receive candy.

PMO will double their patrols in Vista del Sol, and all on-base housing during Halloween night, using golf carts along with their patrol vehicles to help prevent any incidents, said Hammers, a Tullahoma, Tenn., native.

"The golf carts open us up

to all the noises and sights we may not notice in a vehicle," she explained. "We have roughly 3,000 children trick-or-treating at a time. It is our duty to make sure they are safe, especially tonight."

The last area of safety during Halloween is after trick-or-treating. Parents should always check candy their children have collected.

Fox advises parents to check all candy before it is eaten, and remove any opened pieces, or, depending on the age of the child, any type of candy that can become a choking hazard.

PMO will also have a table set up at the community center where military police will use a metal detector and scan each child's candy for sharp, metal objects.

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Combat Center Trader Ads

AUTOMOTIVE

MOTORCYCLE VSTAR 1100 For sale by owner. Low miles. \$6,200 Call Alfred 362-2512 10/24/08

2003 NISSAN SENTRA XE, one owner, very good condition, \$4,500. Call 285-4311 or 228-1920, leave message. 10/24/08

1987 GMC TRUCK, crew cab with 8' flatbed, automatic, set up for gooseneck, \$2,500 OBO. Call 447-0499 10/10/08

1986 FORD F-250 TRUCK. Extra-cab, diesel 6.9, 4 speed with overdrive. Set up for gooseneck or 5th wheel. \$3,500 OBO. Call 447-0499. 10/10/08

The deadline for submitting Trader ads is noon Wednesday, the upcoming Friday's paper.

Trader Ad Forms are available at the Public Affairs Office and may be filled out during normal working hours at Bldg. 1417.

2007 HARLEY DAVIDSON SOFTAIL DELUXE Less than 2k miles. Under warranty until 2014 (transferable). Custom pipes, huge saddlebags, windshield, etc. \$19k o.b.o. Serious inquiries only, 401-4708. 9/12/08

MISC.

SNCO EVENING DRESS Mess/w GySgt Chevrons 42R, trousers 34 all accessories included, like new worn only twice \$380 obo. Blues jacket 41R anodized buttons, 2 trousers 1 33R/30L \$50 all 3. Call 408-3505. 10/24/08

Ads may also be submitted through e-mail, but will only be accepted from those with an @usmc.mil address. If you are active duty, retired military or a family member and do not have an @usmc.mil address you can go to the PAO page of the base

KENMORE WASHER/ DRYER Less than 6 months old excellent cond. Can deliver, \$300. Call 406-2469. 10/24/08

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Web site at: <http://www.29palms.usmc.mil/dirs/pao/> and complete a request to publish an ad.

The limitations for ads are: 15-word limit, limit of two ads per household and the Trader may be used only for

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2004 EPIPHONE SG-MODEL 40 STRING BASS GUITAR Volume, treble knobs, one bridge humbucker pick-up. \$150 OBO. 888-7100 or 830-5138. 10/3/08

noncommercial classified ads containing items of personal property offered by and for individuals authorized to use this service. Such ads must represent incidental exchanged not of sustained business nature.

CHAIN LINK FENCE you pull, leather couch, washer and dryer, computer desk, master bedroom set, entertainment center. Everything must go! Call for prices at 368-0472. 10/3/08

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Ads for housing rentals will not be considered for the Combat Center Trader.

To have a "House For Sale" ad run in the Observation Post, applicants must provide Permanent Change of Station orders and have the ad

LARGE BREAKFRONT CHINA CABINET. Oak finish. \$300. firm. Call Stephen at 567-0400. 9/26/08

PAPILLON PUPPY - AKC, Tri color, Male, \$600. Michelle 285-2302. 9/26/08

XBOX SYSTEM, w/ 4 controllers and 5 games: Halo 2, Ghost Recon 2, First to Fight, NCAA Football 2005, Tiger Woods PGA 2005. \$175. Call (210) 878-5920. 9/26/08

3-YEAR-OLD PUREBRED WHITE PEKINGESE, house-broken, shots up to date. \$150 o.b.o. Call (760) 910-9300 or 673-9252. 9/12/08

approved by Base Housing. This ensures the Combat Center Trader is not used for commercial real estate endeavors.

Ads are run on a first-come, first-serve, space available basis. If you have questions please call 830-3762.

AMPUTEE, from A1

from Iraq.

"I was at their homecoming in a wheelchair completely drugged up," Jones said. "Seeing my guys was emotional for me because we were all so close, and I knew I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for them. When we all get together, it's like a family reunion. We're a tight-knit group. We had difficulties at times, but what family doesn't?"

Jones yearned to be back with his Marine family. Although he didn't say it, he kept in mind that he one day wanted to serve with the Marines who saved his life.

"We all wanted him back," Pofahl said. "He's a good guy to have your back. He'd take the shirt off of his back if you need it. At the same time, we were like, 'How would he be able to do that because of rehab and all?'"

In the meantime, Jones continued his appointments. In November, he finally linked up with a prosthetist who would help him become familiar with the functions of prosthetics. The prosthetist fit Jones for a total of six walking prosthetics and one snowboarding prosthetic.

An avid fan of snowboarding, Jones realized his potential during a snowboarding trip to Breckenridge, Colo., with fellow wounded warriors from NMCS and his sister, Sara, in early December. Although Jones had only been on his new prosthetic for two weeks, he was eager to go snowboarding - a passion of his for more than 15 years.

"The first day, I was able to make it down the mountain," Jones said. "As the days progressed, I got stronger and more confident on my snowboard."

Surprisingly, all of the snowboarding helped him deaden some of the nerve endings in his left leg. It also helped him become more accustomed to walking on his prosthetic leg.

"Once I knew I could snowboard again, I realized I was going to be able to do a lot more than just snowboard," Jones said. "I was like, 'If I could snowboard, who knows what else I can do?'" It kind of opened my mind up to all the other possibilities."

Meanwhile, Jones continued his daily physical therapy, stretching, and prosthetic appointments at NMCS.

"I just kept thinking about my next snowboard trip and getting back to 2/7 ASAP," Jones said.

Later, in February, Jones was visited by Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. James T. Conway. Seizing the moment of this rare opportunity, he asked the Marine commander for orders to return to the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center at Twentynine Palms, Calif., so he could once again serve with 2/7.

"I asked to come back to 2/7, and his assistant took my info," Jones explained. "And, a couple of days later, I had orders back to 2/7. I was so excited I almost didn't believe it."

When Jones checked back into his battalion, many of the Marines were awestruck. They couldn't believe how much progress he had made on a prosthetic leg in less than a year.

"None of us knew how advanced prosthetics were," Pofahl said. "He's been called a walking legend, literally. We're all glad to have him around. He's a really positive and hard worker; one of those guys who don't let anything get to him, obviously," Pofahl said.

Although Jones couldn't return to the infantry, he was able to serve in other sections within the battalion and was subsequently assigned to the intelligence section where he is relied upon to provide his fellow infantrymen with vital information that can aid in keeping them away from harmful situations.

"At first I didn't know what I was able to do," Jones said. "It's good to be able to do something that will keep Marines safe. Although I can't be out there with them, I get to directly help them."

Jones wanted to deploy with his unit when it was ordered to deploy to Afghanistan in April. But, he wasn't yet ready to undergo the intense Mojave Viper pre-deployment training. Regardless, he would get no handouts despite being a new amputee. Realizing he is still a Marine, he knew he would have to prove himself all over again.

"It wasn't just a hookup," Jones said. "I had to do all the training all

other Marines do."

Jones participated in humvee scenarios, close quarters combat drills, survival training, machine gun packages, combat life saver courses, and several other pre-deployment courses. Although he had gone through this training before, this was his first time enduring it as an amputee.

"My leg popped off a couple of times in the humvee scenario and once when I was leaving a range," Jones said. "I thought it was funny because 'How many guys walk around with combat loads and have a leg fall off?' I still did it to prove that I could deploy as an amputee."

Once all physical and administrative requirements were complete, Jones was ready to deploy and help the Marines who once helped him.

"I love being with the guys, the same people. I really do," Jones said. "If it wasn't for the guys in this unit, I wouldn't be here. It's an honor to serve with them and be in a place where many Marines don't get a chance to go."

Recovering in just nine months, Jones has become the fastest recuperating amputee to deploy to a combat zone. Still, many people have doubted his ability to survive a seven-month deployment on a prosthetic limb.

"A lot of people were skeptical of me because I'm a new amputee," Jones said. "It's been a little bit of a challenge for me, mentally at first. People were saying, 'Its going to be hard, and I can't do it.' So, being out here was a confidence builder."

Jones still struggles with walking. He said it takes a lot of energy to walk in combat boots for 14 hours a day with all the sweating, straining and refitting inside of his prosthetic leg.

He said he will always feel slight discomfort on his left leg because of nerve and bone growth along the skin line of his amputated leg. But, he considers it a small price to pay when comparing it to losing a life.

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